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TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7105
INFO RUEHZL/EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUEHKH/AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM PRIORITY 0172
RUEHKI/AMEMBASSY KINSHASA PRIORITY 1493
RUEHTV/AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY 0643
RUEHJM/AMCONSUL JERUSALEM PRIORITY 0271
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY 2658
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SUBJECT: FRANCE: GENERAL AGREEMENT WITH U.S. ON GAERC ISSUES

REF: STATE 60948

Classified By: PolMC Josiah Rosenblatt for reasons 1.4 (B & D).

¶1. (U) We shared reftel points on May 11 with MFA CFSP Deputy Emmanuel Cohet.

¶2. (C) Western Balkans: Cohet indicated that Bosnia is unlikely to be discussed. Regarding Serbia, he indicated that France shares our position on the new government and on cooperation with the ICTY. On Kosovo, Cohet indicated French support for Ahtissari,s recommendations. France will carry the message to the EU that it must maintain unity. France also supports U.S. participation in the Kosovo ESDP mission, in what Cohet hoped would be a harmonious process despite the many details to be worked out. Cohet said that France agrees that the timeline for the final status resolution should not be drawn out, and is fully engaged in UNSC discussion of the draft text in New York.

¶3. (C) Uzbekistan: Cohet indicated France,s support for maintaining sanctions. There is continuing discussion about whether assistance should be restricted, but France generally agrees that EU policy needs to be linked to progress on human rights.

¶4. (C) The Middle East: Cohet indicated France,s general agreement with the U.S. position on the Israeli-Palestinian issues, while noting the EU is "less reserved" than the U.S. on contacts with non-Hamas members of the government who recognize the principles of the Quartet. According to Cohet, the EU sees such contacts as important in encouraging a positive process. Cohet noted France,s agreement with Secretary Rice,s remarks on the need to provide a "political

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horizon." Regarding Iran, Cohet shares the U.S. analysis that targeted pressures are working, and he agrees the international community must stay united. He noted that issues regarding UNSCR 1737 have been worked out, and any remaining issues on 1747 are close to resolution.

¶5. (C) Africa: On Sudan, Cohet stated that France shares our general approach, but prefers for now to focus on sanctions within the U.N. framework, given the importance of maintaining the unity of the international community. Regarding Somalia, Cohet agreed with U.S. points, including the importance of EU funding to support the AU Mission in Somalia. Regarding the Democratic Republic of Congo, Cohet indicated France,s agreement with the U.S. position.

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